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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/021,624	12/11/2001	Eric J. Meyerhofer	47584/FLC/F392	4986

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EXAMINER
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HOTALING, JOHN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3713

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/021,624	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MEYERHOFER ET AL. <span style="float: right;">ON</span>	
	<b>Examiner</b> John M Hotaling II	<b>Art Unit</b> 3713	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 June 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saunders et al WO 98/59311 in view of Stern US Patent 6,110,044. Saunders discloses all of the instant application with the exception of specifically disclosing the use a validation character string and an optical character recognition process. Instead Saunders discloses on page 8 that many forms of the ticket may be used as long as the ticket has the coded value information. On page 16 Saunders discloses that other unique numbers can be contained in the barcode and that the barcode is scanned after printing to make sure that the information contained therein is correct, else the ticket is invalid or "void". This scanning is done after the printing process in the printer and before issuance to the player. In an analogous invention to Stern there is disclosed a printer which prints a bar code and a validation number and is capable of reading both of the numbers. Column 1 discloses that the data printed on the ticket may be generated on a printed circuit board controlling play of the gaming machine or by an auxiliary printed circuit board. Column 5 discloses the use of OCR. One would be motivated to combine the reference in order to process a multitude of data on a ticket as suggested on page 16 of Saunders that "the information contained in the bar code may also contain other

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information such as the identity of the player, a PIN number, and a unique ticket number. It is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the teachings of the above references anticipate the claimed subject matter since it is obvious to make what is integral separate and what is separate integral and further since both teachings are disclosed. With respect to the amended subject matter, if the gaming printer is to print on the gaming ticket a validation character string then it must also receive or generate the validating character string. In this case both references discuss sending to the game printer a bar code or validation character string which contains validation information. With respect to the voiding of the voucher by the gaming printer if the voucher is not verified please see pages 15 and 16 of Saunders which states that the microprocessor controls the printer to print the ticket, transport the ticket, scan the ticket, verify the ticket. If the ticket is not verified the invalid (i.e. "void") ticket is firmly held in the ticket-out transport to prevent the player from receiving the ticket, a message is sent to personnel and is displayed on the display.

### ***Remarks***

2. The 35 USC 112 and provisional double patenting rejections have been overcome.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed 6/3/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention (i.e., Saunders does not disclose the use of validation

character strings that are scanned after printing) it is noted Saunders discloses that other unique numbers can be contained in the barcode and that the barcode is scanned after printing to make sure that the information contained therein is correct, else the ticket is invalid or "void". This scanning is done after the printing process in the printer and before issuance to the player.

In response to applicant's argument that the Stern reference fails to disclose any features of how OCR might be used for verification of a voucher before the voucher is issued please see column 5 lines 40-56 that discloses that the barcode format is desirable but that a plurality of different formats may be used. Specifically OCR is mentioned in this section.

In response to the applicant's arguments that the neither Saunders or stern discloses voiding a voucher by a gaming printer please see the rejection above.

### ***Conclusion***

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M Hotaling II whose telephone number is 703 305 0780. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on (703) 305-7497. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JOHN M. HOTALING, II  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

September 7, 2004